

DOCKET NO.: **OO-0145

PATENT

Application No.: 09/707,273

Notice of Allowance Dated: August 31, 2011

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. **1-16**. The sheets, which include Figs. **1-16**, replace the original sheets including Figs. **1-16**.

Attachment: Sixteen Replacement Sheets

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REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claims 40, 41, 43, 44, 47-53, 55, 56, 59-65, 67, 71, 73, and 76-81 are pending in the present application and stand allowed. Applicants presently submit amendments to claims 50, 51, 55, 56, 59-63, 65, 67, and 76-78. The amendments are directed to matters of form, such as ensuring proper antecedent basis of the claim recitations. Inasmuch as the present amendments relate only to matters of form, applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendments.

Replacement Drawings

In the notice of allowance of August 31, 2011, the examiner required “[n]ew corrected drawings in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d)...because the drawings submitted [previously] contain improper shading that may affect clarity once reproduced.” Notice of allowance, page 2. Applicants presently submit replacement drawings which do not include improper shading. Accordingly, applicants submit that the presently filed replacement drawings comply with the examiner’s requirement for new corrected drawings.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants acknowledge the examiner’s statements of Reasons for Allowance of the above-referenced patent application and agree that the claimed subject matter is patentable. However, applicants take no position regarding the Reasons for Allowance presented by the examiner other than the positions applicants may have previously taken during prosecution. Therefore, the examiner’s Reasons for Allowance should not be attributed to applicants as an indication of the basis for applicants’ belief that the claims are patentable. Furthermore, applicants respectfully assert that there may also be additional reasons for patentability of the

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claimed subject matter not explicitly stated in this record and applicants do not waive their rights to such arguments by not further addressing such reasons herein.

Date: November 29, 2011

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